

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00794 131406Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 CU-04 USIA-15

DODE-00 PER-03 A-01 ( ISO ) W

-----038042 131623Z /43

R 131343Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7510

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS VALLETTA 0794

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, MT

SUBJECT: NEW INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ORGANIZED IN MALTA  
BY READING AND BATES.

REF: VALLETTA A-1, OF JAN 13 1977

SUMMARY: WITH GOM ASSURANCE THAT IT COULD OPERATE A 12 GRADE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL HERE, READING AND BATES HAS MOVED SOME 360 EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES TO MALTA WITHIN THE PAST EIGHT MONTHS. THIS FIGURE IS EXPECTED TO RISE TO OVER 470 BY THE END OF 1977. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT OTHER FIRMS, ATTRACTED BY THE PRESENCE OF AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, ARE ALSO CONTEMPLATING MALTA AS A CENTRAL BASE FOR MEDITERRANEAN OPERATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING PROTRACTED AND ARDUOUS NEGOTIATIONS, THE OIL DRILLING FIRM OF READING AND BATES HAS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOM TO OPERATE AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN MALTA. THE SCHOOL, WHICH READING AND BATES BEGAN TO SET UP EVEN BEFORE  
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THE FINAL AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED, WILL HAVE A FULL RANGE OF CLASSES, FROM KINDERGARTEN THROUGH SENIOR HIGH. THE CURRICULUM WILL BE BASED ON THE U.S. SYSTEM AND THE TEACHERS WILL BE PRIMARILY RECRUITED FROM OUTSIDE MALTA. INITIALLY, ADMITTANCE WILL BE OPEN TO ALL, INCLUDING SOME MALTESE STUDENTS. (THE AGREEMENT STATES THAT ONE THIRD OF THE ENROLLMENT WILL BE MALTESE, NOT TO FALL BELOW A MINIMUM OF 100.) YEARLY TUITION

WILL BE BETWEEN U.S. DOLS. 2500 - -2800.

2. ALTHOUGH SECURING PERMISSION TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL WAS THE KEY FACTOR IN READING AND BATES'S DECISION TO USE MALTA AS THE CENTER FOR THEIR MEDITERRANEAN AREA (AND BEYOND) OPERATIONS, THE COMPANY ORIGINALLY INVESTIGATED MALTA BECAUSE UNSATISFACTORY LIVING CONDITIONS FOR FAMILIES ELSEWHERE WERE CONTRIBUTING TO A HIGH AND EXPENSIVE EMPLOYEE TURNOVER. THE COMPANY FOUND LOW COSTS, A FAVORABLE CLIMATE, AND ENGLISH SPEAKING, FRIENDLY MALTESE. THESE FACTORS, PLUS THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AND A SATISFACTORY LEASE AGREEMENT WITH AIR MALTA TO PROVIDE CHARTER FLIGHTS TO FERRY THEIR PERSONNEL TO DRILLING LOCATIONS, HAVE PERSUADED READING AND BATES TO STAY.

3. BECAUSE OF THE GROUNDWORK OF READING AND BATES, AND ITS GENERALLY SATISFACTORY EXPERIENCE IN MALTA THUS FAR, OTHER U.S. FIRMS RELATED TO THE OIL INDUSTRY ARE CONTEMPLATING BASING FAMILIES HERE. AS A RESULT, IT APPEARS THAT THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MALTA CAN EXPECT TO EXPAND CONSIDERABLY BEYOND ITS PRESENT 600 OR SO MEMBERS. LAINGEN

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** EINV, SEDU, MT  
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**Type:** TE  
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